

Greetings SBA2009 Team,

Now that you have read, processed and thought about this Spaceward Bound concept. A few areas for you to consider that will focus you on the region itself.

I recommend if you haven't already go to the SB website and examine the general tourism Australia flyer-  
Flinders Ranges National Landscape- a general guide to the Flinders Ranges

<[https://webmail.cathednet.wa.edu.au/exchange/Gargano.Mark/Drafts/FW:%20Spaceward%20Bound%20Australia.EML/australia2009/docs/Flinders\\_Ranges\\_National\\_Landscape.pdf](https://webmail.cathednet.wa.edu.au/exchange/Gargano.Mark/Drafts/FW:%20Spaceward%20Bound%20Australia.EML/australia2009/docs/Flinders_Ranges_National_Landscape.pdf)>

This gives a nice overview, some history, geology and a few insights into the South Australian outback experience that we will investigate more thoroughly in a few weeks.

To gain a bit of an introduction to geological perspective and linking this to how Spaceward Bound is involved and interested in this specific region, please examine-

Clarke- Arkaroola as a Mars Analogue region.

<<https://webmail.cathednet.wa.edu.au/exchange/Gargano.Mark/Drafts/FW:%20Spaceward%20Bound%20Australia.EML/australia2009/docs/Clarke%20etal%202005%20Arkaroola%20analog%20region.pdf>>

This paper was written by a number of people with Jon Clarke, who will be on expedition with us. It outlines the early days of examining Mars analog regions and identifying which of 6 candidate sites in Australia, could be selected as the main area of operation to focus on. What you will notice that under each neat heading, it summarises key points about the bedrock, regolith, hydrology, biology and others, giving an easy to grasp summary, worth a look.

I did make mention to analog above, there is a reading in the list which will give an insight into analog field testing;

Analogue research in Planetary Science Ed

<<https://webmail.cathednet.wa.edu.au/exchange/Gargano.Mark/Drafts/FW:%20Spaceward%20Bound%20Australia.EML/australia2009/docs/Analogue%20research%20in%20Planetary%20Science%20ed.pdf>>

This briefly discusses the aim of the analog work at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS) simulating various scientific, engineering issues and human factor studies in order to help the first human exploration of planet Mars. The location of the station is useful for

geological and biological analog field work to observe structures, processes and extremophiles possibly relevant to Mars. Now even though this paper is from the recent Lunar & Planetary Science Conference and is referring to Utah, but the concepts are the same and the theory behind simulated training and experience as applicable to off-world exploration is what our team of scientists and engineers and us will be doing on SBA, gives you the perspective of analog, this paper also highlights other areas of analog trials and how perhaps they can be applied to the big picture.

I think for the moment, I will leave it to these three, they are brief, but put field testing in perspective, especially when you consider the Arkaroola region.

Hopefully you are making some short notes relating to these, with many of the papers, the crew on SBA are either the authors or have been involved with those papers being published, so I encourage a bit of background knowledge-

Why Arkaroola?

What is relevant to planetary scientists?

Why analog?

What do we (I) do as educators that is also analog?

Next set of reading- geology, watch this space.

Any questions, fire away please. Not long now.

Regards,

Mark